(v) Officers of the department have commenced physical verification of specific projects.

(vi) Steps have been taken to increase transparency and to publicize the projects being funded under the NLCPR and by the North-Eastern Council.

Delay on disinvestment

3. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the delay in disinvestment has proved bad for market and Government's image;

(b) if so, whether the Indian industry is not happy about the recent flip-flop on disinvestment;

(c) whether according to them the disinvestment fiasco would adversely affect the market sentiment and the overall economic sentiments;

(d) if so, whether both the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister have been urged to take immediate final decision for continuance of disinvestment policy; and

(e) if so, by when Government are likely to take final decision on these issues?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Disinvestment being an important component of economic reforms, any perceived setback in it does have an immediate adverse impact on market sentiments and typically market capitalization of PSUs have taken a down turn in such situations.

(b) and (c) Apprehensions have indeed been expressed by experts of the negative sentiments of any delay that might take place in the reform process in general and disinvestment in particular.

(d) and (e) there has been no discontinuance of disinvestment policy. The disinvestment programme is being implemented and Government is

prompt in addressing all issues that need resolution for the success of this programme.

Evaluation of industries for disinvestment

†4. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether evaluation of PSUs is done after selection of industries for disinvestment by Government;

(b) if so, names of the PSUs that have been selected for evaluation by Government, so far; and

(c) the amount paid to the evaluating institutions?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes, Sir. Valuation of a PSU selected for disinvestment is one of the responsibilities of an Advisor who is appointed separately for each case through a process of competitive bidding. For the purpose of asset valuation, which is one of the methods of valuation, an asset valuer is • separately appointed in each case through a process of competitive bidding. The Advisor takes into account the report of the Asset Valuer while evaluating the PSU.

(b) and (c) As Asset Valuers used to be appointed by the companies themselves before the Ministry of Disinvestment was constituted, information has to be collected from them. It is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Heavy industries for disinvestment

†5. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified heavy industries which have been selected for disinvestment;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.